

## Genealogy Rocks!

### Military Records Are Not A Secret!

Many military records since the Revolutionary War are available to the public. Our government keeps all military records for all past wars (except classified records) at different facilities in the U.S., plus many of these records are available online.



**Bob Larson**

Our National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) collects many government records at the Washington D.C. headquarters besides the many regional NARA offices throughout the U.S. There is a major archives facility in Lakewood, CO, open to the public, Monday through Friday, 8 to 4 pm. All NARA facilities have microfilm on military records. The Washington D.C. facility has the older military records from the Revolutionary War (1775) to the Spanish War (1898). The regional offices include similar records, but either on a national or regional level. Relatives of veterans can request different records online at [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records) using their eVetRecs online service.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis houses

all records for veterans since WWI (1916) through the present wars (2004). Unfortunately, a 1973 fire destroyed many Army and Air Force WWII records, but many VA WWII records survived. If you're a relative, use the eVetRecs form to order veteran's records. Many simple requests are free, but expanded requests can cost up to \$100 for genealogy research.

Ancestry.com and Footnote.com have many military records online from the RW to WWII. However, many military services have records available for relatives and the public. Visit the National Archives website: [www.nara.gov](http://www.nara.gov) for more info on military records. Plus, there are many military unit websites maintained by relatives of veterans to help veterans and genealogists on research. Google the military unit number for more info.

❖ *Bob Larson is President, newsletter editor, and genealogy instructor at Larimer County Genealogical Society. Our next program is Reading Your Ancestry Like A Book on June 16 at the Harmony Library in Fort Collins. Visit our website at [www.lcgsco.org](http://www.lcgsco.org) or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/lcgsco](http://www.facebook.com/lcgsco) for more information and other monthly events. We're a major sponsor at the Colorado Expo on June 24 & 25 in Loveland.*